AMENDMENTS

Claims

The following is a copy of Applicants' claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("—"), as is applicable:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for communications in connection with a computer-based notification system, comprising the steps of:

initiating a notification communication to a personal communications device associated with a party;

receiving a response communication from the party's personal communications device, indicating that the party has received the notification communication and is now occupied with a task associated with the notification communication; and

refraining from sending any further notification communications to the party's personal communications device, until detection of one or more events that indicate that the party is no longer occupied with the task and can perform another task associated with another notification communication.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more events comprises at least receipt of a second communication from the party's personal communications device.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more events comprises at least expiration of a predefined time period.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more events comprises at least arrival or departure of a mobile thing at or from a location, respectively.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of refraining from sending notification communications to one or more additional personal communications devices.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of initiating the notification communication is performed when a mobile thing is a predetermined proximity with respect to a location.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the steps are performed with a single computer system, a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled, or a computer system having a distributed architecture.

8. (Previously Presented) A method for communications in connection with a computer-based notification system, comprising the steps of:

storing contact data in memory pertaining to one or more party personal communications devices;

initiating a first notification communication to a personal communications device associated with a party based upon the contact data;

receiving a response communication from the party's personal communications device;

changing the contact data based upon the response communication;

refraining from sending notification communications to the party's personal communications device based upon the change in the contact data; and

initiating a second notification communication to the party's personal communications device, one or more other personal communications devices, or both, after detection of occurrence of one or more events.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the one or more events comprises at least receipt of a second communication from the party's personal communications device.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the one or more events comprises at least expiration of a predefined time period.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the one or more events comprises arrival, presence, or departure of a mobile thing with respect to a location.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the one or more events comprises scanning a machine readable code on an object.

13. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the one or more events comprises actuation of a manually or automatically actuated switch that is associated with a mobile thing.

14. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of refraining from sending notification communications to one or more additional personal communications devices.

15. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of initiating a first notification communication is performed when a mobile thing is a predetermined proximity with respect to a location.

16. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the steps are performed with a single computer system, a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled, or a computer system having a distributed architecture.

17. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

monitoring travel data associated with a mobile thing;

performing the step of initiating the first notification communication based upon the relationship of a mobile thing to a location; and

performing the step of initiating the second notification communication based upon the relationship of the mobile thing or another mobile thing to the location or another location.

18. (Previously Presented) A method for communications in connection with a computer-based notification system and a personal communications device associated with a party, comprising the steps of:

receiving a notification communication with the personal communications device associated with the party from the notification system;

communicating a response communication from the party's personal communications device, indicating that the party has received the notification communication and is now occupied with a task associated with the notification communication; and

causing the notification system to refrain from sending any further notification communications to the party's personal communications device, until detection of one or more events, indicating that the party is no longer occupied with the task and can perform another task associated with another notification communication.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the response communication is generated by a physical action taken by the party associated with the personal communications device.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the response communication is generated by physically detecting the presence of the party associated with the personal communications device.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for communications in connection with a computer-based notification system, comprising the steps of:

storing contact data in memory pertaining to one or more party personal communications devices;

initiating a notification communication to a personal communications device associated with a party based upon the contact data;

receiving a response communication from the party's personal communications device;

changing the contact data based upon the response ~~commmunication~~ communication; and

modifying a manner in which future notification communications are implemented, based upon the change in the contact data.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of modifying comprises refraining from sending notification communications to the party's personal communications device after receiving the response communication, until detection of one or more events.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the one or more events comprises at least one or more of the following: receipt of a second communication from the party's personal communications device; expiration of a predefined time period; or arrival or departure of a mobile thing at or from a location, respectively.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of refraining from sending notification communications to one or more additional personal communications devices.

25. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of initiating the notification communication is performed when a mobile thing is a predetermined proximity with respect to a location.

26. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the steps are performed with a single computer system, a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled, or a computer system having a distributed architecture.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the response communication is generated by a physical action taken by the party associated with the personal communications device.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the response communication is generated by physically detecting the presence of the party associated with the personal communications device.

29. (Cancelled).

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Cancelled).

32. (Previously Presented) A method for communications in connection with a computer-based notification system, comprising the steps of:

initiating a first notification communication to a personal communications device associated with a party;

receiving a response communication from the party's personal communications device;

refraining from sending notification communications to the party's personal communications device after receiving the response communication;

initiating a second notification communication to the party's personal communications device, one or more other personal communications devices, or both, after detection of a receipt of a second communication from the party's personal communications device.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of refraining from sending notification communications to one or more additional personal communications devices.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the step of initiating the first notification communication is performed when a mobile thing is a predetermined proximity with respect to a location.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the steps are performed with a single computer system, a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled, or a computer system having a distributed architecture.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the response communication is generated by a physical action taken by the party associated with the personal communications device.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the response communication is generated by physically detecting the presence of the party associated with the personal communications device.

38. (Previously Presented) A method for communications in connection with a computer-based notification system, comprising the steps of:

initiating a first notification communication to a personal communications device associated with a party;

receiving a response communication from the party's personal communications device;

refraining from sending notification communications to the party's personal communications device after receiving the response communication; and

initiating a second notification communication to the party's personal communications device, one or more other personal communications devices, or both, after detection of the scanning of a machine readable code on an object.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising the step of refraining from sending notification communications to one or more additional personal communications devices.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the step of initiating the first notification communication is performed when a mobile thing is a predetermined proximity with respect to a location.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the steps are performed with a single computer system, a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled, or a computer system having a distributed architecture.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the response communication is generated by a physical action taken by the party associated with the personal communications device.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the response communication is generated by physically detecting the presence of the party associated with the personal communications device.

44. (Currently Amended) A method for communications in connection with a computer-based notification system, comprising the steps of:

monitoring travel data associated with a mobile thing;

initiating a first notification communication to a personal communications device associated with a party based upon the relationship of the mobile thing to a location;

receiving a response communication from the party's personal communications device;

refraining from sending notification communications to the party's personal communications device after receiving the response communication; and

initiating a second notification communication to the party's personal communications device, one or more other personal communications devices, or both, based upon ~~the upon~~ the relationship of the mobile thing or another mobile thing to the location or another location.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, further comprising the step of refraining from sending notification communications to one or more additional personal communications devices.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the step of initiating the first notification communication is performed when a mobile thing is a predetermined proximity with respect to the location.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the steps are performed with a single computer system, a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled, or a computer system having a distributed architecture.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the response communication is generated by a physical action taken by the party associated with the personal communications device.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the response communication is generated by physically detecting the presence of the party associated with the personal communications device.

50. (Previously Presented) A computer-based notification system, comprising:

means for initiating a notification communication to a personal communications device associated with a party;

means for receiving a response communication from the party's personal communications device, indicating that the party has received the notification communication and is now occupied with a task associated with the notification communication; and

means for refraining from sending any further notification communications to the party's personal communications device, until detection of one or more events that indicate that the party is no longer occupied with the task and can perform another task associated with another notification communication.

51. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein the one or more events comprises at least receipt of a second communication from the party's personal communications device.

52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein the one or more events comprises at least expiration of a predefined time period.

53. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein the one or more events comprises at least arrival or departure of a mobile thing at or from a location, respectively.

54. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, further comprising means for refraining from sending notification communications to one or more additional personal communications devices.

55. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein the initiating means initiates the notification communication when a mobile thing is a predetermined proximity with respect to a location.

56. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein the initiating means, the receiving means, the refraining means are implemented with a single computer system, a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled, or a computer system having a distributed architecture.

57. (Previously Presented) A computer-based notification system, comprising:

means for storing contact data in memory pertaining to one or more party personal communications devices;

means for initiating a first notification communication to a personal communications device associated with a party based upon the contact data;

means for receiving a response communication from the party's personal communications device;

means for changing the contact data based upon the response communication;

means for refraining from sending notification communications to the party's personal communications device based upon the change in contact data; and

means for initiating a second notification communication to the party's personal communications device, one or more other personal communications devices, or both, after detection of occurrence of one or more events.

58. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57, wherein the one or more events comprises at least receipt of a second communication from the party's personal communications device.

59. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57, wherein the one or more events comprises at least expiration of a predefined time period.

60. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57, wherein the one or more events comprises arrival, presence, or departure of a mobile thing with respect to a location.

61. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57, wherein the one or more events comprises scanning a machine readable code on an object.

62. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57, wherein the one or more events comprises actuation of a manually or automatically actuated switch that is associated with a mobile thing.

63. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57, further comprising a means for refraining from sending notification communications to one or more additional personal communications devices.

64. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57, wherein the initiating means initiates the first notification communication when a mobile thing is a predetermined proximity with respect to a location.

65. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57, wherein the storing means, the first initiating means, the receiving means, the refraining means and the second initiating means are implemented with a single computer system, a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled, or a computer system having a distributed architecture.

66. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57, further comprising:

means for monitoring travel data associated with a mobile thing;

wherein the first initiating means initiates the first notification communication based upon the relationship of a mobile thing to a location; and

wherein the second initiating means initiates the second notification communication based upon the relationship of the mobile thing or another mobile thing to the location or another location.

67. (Previously Presented) A computer-based notification system, comprising:

means for receiving a notification communication with the personal communications device associated with the party from the notification system;

means for communicating a response communication from the party's personal communications device, indicating that the party has received the notification communication and is now occupied with a task associated with the notification communication; and

means for causing the notification system to refrain from sending any further notification communications to the party's personal communications device, until detection of one or more events, indicating that the party is no longer occupied with the task and can perform another task associated with another notification communication.

68. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 67, wherein the response communication is generated by a physical action taken by the party associated with the personal communications device.

69. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 67, wherein the response communication is generated by physically detecting the presence of the party associated with the personal communications device.

70. (Previously Presented) A computer-based notification system, comprising:

means for storing contact data in memory pertaining to one or more party personal communications devices;

means for initiating a notification communication to a personal communications device associated with a party based upon the contact data;

means for receiving a response communication from the party's personal communications device;

means for changing the contact data based upon the response; and

means for modifying a manner in which future notification communications are implemented, based upon the change in the contact data.

71. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 70, wherein the modifying means comprises a means for refraining from sending notification communications to the party's personal communications device after receiving the response communication, until detection of one or more events.

72. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 71, wherein the one or more events comprises at least one or more of the following: receipt of a second communication from the party's personal communications device; expiration of a predefined time period; or arrival or departure of a mobile thing at or from a location, respectively.

73. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 71, further comprising a means for refraining from sending notification communications to one or more additional personal communications devices.

74. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 70, wherein the initiating means initiates the notification communication when a mobile thing is a predetermined proximity with respect to a location.

75. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 70, wherein the storing means, the initiating means, the receiving means, and the modifying means are implemented with a single computer system, a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled, or a computer system having a distributed architecture.

76. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 70, wherein the response communication is generated by a physical action taken by the party associated with the personal communications device.

77. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 70, wherein the response communication is generated by physically detecting the presence of the party associated with the personal communications device.

78. (Previously Presented) A computer-based notification system, comprising:

means for initiating a first notification communication to a personal communications device associated with a party;

means for receiving a response communication from the party's personal communications device;

means for refraining from sending notification communications to the party's personal communications device after receiving the response communication;

means for initiating a second notification communication to the party's personal communications device, one or more other personal communications devices, or both, after detection of a receipt of a second communication from the party's personal communications device.

79. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 78, further comprising a means for refraining from sending notification communications to one or more additional personal communications devices.

80. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 78, wherein the first initiating means initiates the first notification communication when a mobile thing is a predetermined proximity with respect to a location.

81. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 78, wherein the first initiating means, the receiving means, the refraining means, and the second initiating means are implemented with a single computer system, a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled, or a computer system having a distributed architecture.

82. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 78, wherein the response communication is generated by a physical action taken by the party associated with the personal communications device.

83. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 78, wherein the response communication is generated by physically detecting the presence of the party associated with the personal communications device.

84. (Previously Presented) A computer-based notification system, comprising:

means for initiating a first notification communication to a personal communications device associated with a party;

means for receiving a response communication from the party's personal communications device;

means for refraining from sending notification communications to the party's personal communications device after receiving the response communication; and

means for initiating a second notification communication to the party's personal communications device, one or more other personal communications devices, or both, after detection of the scanning of a machine readable code on an object.

85. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 84, further comprising a means for refraining from sending notification communications to one or more additional personal communications devices.

86. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 84, wherein the first initiating means initiates the first notification communication when a mobile thing is a predetermined proximity with respect to a location.

87. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 84, wherein the first initiating means, the receiving means, the refraining means, and the second initiating means are implemented with a single computer system, a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled, or a computer system having a distributed architecture.

88. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 84, wherein the response communication is generated by a physical action taken by the party associated with the personal communications device.

89. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 85, wherein the response communication is generated by physically detecting the presence of the party associated with the personal communications device.

90. (Currently Amended)) A computer-based notification system, comprising:

means for monitoring travel data associated with a mobile thing;

means for initiating a first notification communication to a personal communications device associated with a party based upon the relationship of the mobile thing to a location;

means for receiving a response communication from the party's personal communications device;

means for refraining from sending notification communications to the party's personal communications device after receiving the response communication; and

means for initiating a second notification communication to the party's personal communications device, one or more other personal communications devices, or both, based upon ~~the upon~~ the relationship of the mobile thing or another mobile thing to the location or another location.

91. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 90, further comprising means for refraining from sending notification communications to one or more additional personal communications devices.

92. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 90, wherein the first initiating means initiates the first notification communication when a mobile thing is a predetermined proximity with respect to the location.

93. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 90, wherein the monitoring means, the first initiating means, the receiving means, the refraining means, and the second initiating means are implemented with a single computer system, a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled, or a computer system having a distributed architecture.

94. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 90, wherein the response communication is generated by a physical action taken by the party associated with the personal communications device.

95. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 90, wherein the response communication is generated by physically detecting the presence of the party associated with the personal communications device.